Area Under Paddy Cultivation in Kerala

4662. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp decrease in area under paddy cultivation in Kerala over the recent years;

(b) if so, the exact decrease in the area during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check diversion of rice fields for other crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a): Yes, Sir. The rate of growth of area under paddy in Kerala during 1980-81 to 1988-89 was estimated at (-) 4.20 per cent per annum.

(b): The area under paddy during the last four years ending 1990-91 in the Kerala State is as under:-

Year	*Area under Paddy (in thousand ha.)*
1987-88	604.0
1988-89	577.5
1989-90	578.2
1990-91	559.4

(c): The decline in area under paddy cultivation in Kerala in recent years was mainly due to shift in area to non-foodgrain crops particularly oilseeds/coconut. The Government is not proposing to check the diversion of rice area to non-foodgrain crops but is taking steps to increase paddy production by improving the yield per hectare.

Rained Agriculture

4663. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Research and Development projects implemented for improving productive potential of rainfed land;

(b) the financial assistance provided to these projects so far; and

(c) the achievements made under these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b): An All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture is being operated. During the Course of VIth & VIIth Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 930.00 lakhs was provided for research.

National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) has been in operation from 7th Five Year Plan. A sum of Rs. 281.85 crores has been provided so far.

(c): Achievements in Research and Development Systems include improved cropping, cost-effective and location specific soil and water conservation measures enhancing the resilience of production systems during aberrant weather conditions, evolution and promotion of drought resistant crop variety, improved silvi-pastoral systems, run-off management etc.

Control of Kolshi Pest In Orange Seeds

4665. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjabra Krishi Vidyapeeth